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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.22 and Add.1)*]

58/24. Emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/149 of 16 December 2002 on emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia,

Noting with concern the recurrent drought that affects Ethiopia, and its consequences,

Recalling the initiatives of the Secretary-General to improve food security, including the appointment of the Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa,

Gravely concerned at the magnitude of the recurrent drought, which affects millions owing to the serious crop failures in drought-prone parts of the country that have weak infrastructures and low development capacities,

Bearing in mind the joint 2004 appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, to respond to the food and non-food requirements of households in need so as to prevent the worsening of the current humanitarian crisis,

Noting with serious concern the significant and persistent humanitarian needs in such areas as health, water and acute malnutrition that still exist in parts of the country,

Noting also with serious concern the dire humanitarian situation and its long-term socio-economic and environmental impacts,

Emphasizing the need to address the crisis, bearing in mind the importance of the transition from relief to development, and acknowledging the underlying structural causes of recurrent drought in Ethiopia,

Recognizing that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lies with the Government of Ethiopia, while bearing in mind the important role played by the international community,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a strong early warning system in order to predict better and respond as early as possible to disasters and to minimize their consequences,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the coordinated and collaborative efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, the donor community, non-governmental organizations and other entities to avert, through their timely and generous response, a major humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia in 2003;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to respond in a timely manner to the joint 2004 appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, covering food and non-food needs, as well as to the urgent needs of programme interventions for 2004, aimed at addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity, and issues of recovery, asset protection and the sustainable development of the affected areas;

4. *Welcomes* the programme prepared by the Coalition for Food Security in Ethiopia, and encourages the international community to support the Coalition in realizing its main objective, namely, breaking the cycle of food aid dependency within the next three to five years, thereby enabling fifteen million vulnerable people to engage in sustainable productive activities;

5. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to strengthen mechanisms already in place to respond to such emergency situations, and appreciates their endeavours to increase the availability of food through domestic production and to ensure the access of households in need to food, health and water facilities;

6. *Further welcomes* the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in appointing a Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa, with the objective of mobilizing resources for relief support as well as the sustainable development of the affected areas;

7. *Invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue considering ways to enhance the mobilization of emergency relief assistance to cover the remaining humanitarian needs in Ethiopia;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners to integrate relief efforts with recovery, asset protection and long-term development and to address the underlying structural causes of recurrent drought in Ethiopia in a way that is, inter alia, in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper, including strategies that are aimed at preventing such crises in the future and that improve the resilience of the population;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Ethiopia to further strengthen its efforts to address the underlying structural causes of recurrent threats of drought as part of its overall economic development programme;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

69th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

[1] A/58/224.